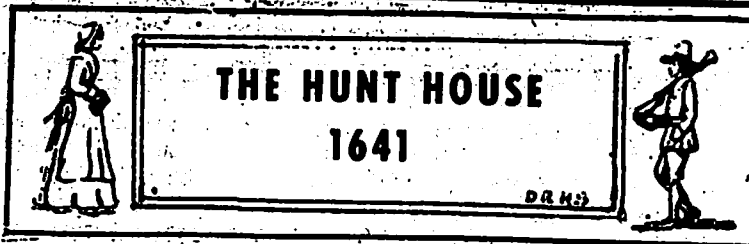


Historical houses - NAMED, A-L

Thursday, August 29, 1968

DUXBURY CLIPPER



One of the oldest houses in town has long been known as the Barker Hunt house, but a look at the records shows there were ten owners and 184 years before Barker's day. In fact, it was in 1825 that Barker got the house by deed of gift from his father, Thomas, whose father and grandfather, both also Thomases, had it from three earlier generations of Hunts. There were some widows and one joint ownership (brothers) that account for the ten previous owners.

In September 1641 Edmond Hawes exchanged ten acres of land for "two thousand feet of sawne boards" and built a house on the old Green's Harbor Path, near Hound's Ditch, the house so long called Barker's. Edmund Hawes had hardly finished it when he sold it to Edmond Hunt, 1642, and it was passed down in the Hunt family father to son, for 228 years until Barker Hunt's widow sold it out of the family in 1870. So, although Edmond Hawes built it, he occupied it for so short a time and has been so long forgotten, and the Hunts had it for so long and are still remembered, the present owner prefers to call it the Hunt House.

John Dellow sold it in 1871 to Samuel P. Briggs and for 35 years it sheltered the Briggs family. When Alpheus H. Walker bought the farm in 1906, there was a new more modern house nearer the curve in a new highway and there was no one living in the old house. It became a storage place for grain and tools, stripped to a bare interior, but so well built that it withstood years of neglect, waiting to be restored to a dwelling house.

In 1962, the house and an acre of land about it was set off from the old farm and sold to Robert H. Hose who has restored it, preserving its 17th century architecture while making it a home once more. Twice additions had been made to the original house, both many years ago, increasing the size without changing the design. The old house has weathered 337 years, to look today very much as it did when Edmond Hawes built it in 1641.

Dorothy Wentworth, Research